

CHEMICAL SAFETY MOMENT

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EHS Safety Beacon: Over the next few issues we will feature several articles from UD's EHS Safety Beacon. Please visit the EHS website to view the current issue in its entirety.

Using the Correct Gloves

There are many options for gloves including: Butyl rubber, Neoprene, Nitrile, PVC, PVA, Viton, Silver Shield, and more. How do you know if you are choosing the correct gloves for your application?

Consider the following:

1. **Identify the hazard** – Chemical type, pH, toxicity, temperature extremes (hot, cold), physical hazards (sharps, piercing objects), biological hazard, etc.
2. **Will you have extended or incidental contact with the hazardous material?**
 - Incidental contact includes: Accidental spills or splashes, Handling of infectious agents that require a barrier of protection, Accidental overspray from dispensing device, etc.
 - Extended contact includes: Submersion of hands into solvent, Physical protection from temperature extremes or sharp/piercing objects, Handling highly contaminated materials, etc.

Gloves made of the same material can differ between manufacturers. Check the specifications on chemical compatibility, degradation rating, and permeation/breakthrough time using charts like the one in the link to the right.



Eyewash News!

In a recent news release, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reminded the public to regularly flush eyewash equipment.

Stagnant water in the plumbing of eyewash stations is an ideal breeding ground for several organisms that are known to cause infections. Workers using eyewash stations after exposure to chemicals may have injuries that make them more susceptible to these infections.

Therefore, after using an eyewash station to flush chemicals from the eyes, it is important for the exposed person to monitor their eyes not only for physical damage but also for early signs of infection.

Most eyewash equipment manufacturers recommend that the eyewash stations be operated at least **ONCE PER WEEK** for several minutes to flush out any organisms or other material that may accumulate in the eyewash plumbing.

Weekly flushes are also a good opportunity to check the overall operation of the eyewash station. If your eyewash station drain is not directly piped to a drain line, use a 5 gallon bucket to collect the water discharge.

